INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal pplication No PCT/IB 03/04562

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01L31/10 H01L H01L27/144 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to daim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1,2,7,8 US 5 883 988 A (NORIMATSU MASAAKI ET AL) X 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16) 3,4,6 column 14, line 31 -column 36, line 56; Α figures 2-4A,626A,27A,28A-32B,34-36 EP 1 189 087 A (TRW INC) 1,4,8 X 20 March 2002 (2002-03-20) column 4, line 39 -column 12, line 13; claims 1-3,7,8; figures 1-4,50,8A-101-10 US 6 410 941 B1 (SHANLEY CHARLES W ET AL) Α 25 June 2002 (2002-06-25) the whole document 1 - 10US 2002/028045 A1 (YOSHIMURA TETSUZO ET A AL) 7 March 2002 (2002-03-07) the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 23/03/2004 16 March 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Boero, M

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